

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Brown on April 18, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

in line 4, substitute "said" with --the--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

in claim 1, line 15, substitute "camera, and," with --camera and,--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-16 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest either alone or in combination thereof, an information input and output method by use of a dot pattern characterized in that,

on a medium surface of a printed material, a plurality of lattice dots are disposed in a rectangular shape and set as a block;

a plurality of information dots having various information are disposed by setting a key dot as a representative point, wherein an information dot is disposed at an end point of a vector, wherein a start point of the vector is set at a center surrounded by the lattice dots of four points and wherein the plurality of information dots are arranged in accordance with a predetermined rule by a dot code generation algorithm to thereby generate a dot pattern; and

the block which configures the dot pattern is imported as image data by a camera, and, from a numerical value which was calculated by digitizing the image data, information, and a program outputted.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMARA A. FRANKLIN whose telephone number is (571)272-2389. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jamara A. Franklin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2876

JAF
April 17, 2008